



On June 15, 2006, hundreds gathered for the Pentagon Memorial groundbreaking ceremony. The event was well attended by both the family and friends of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Senior Defense Department Officials, Congressional and Cabinet members and Pentagon employees were also in attendance to commemorate the day.

The groundbreaking marks the first stage for construction of the Pentagon Memorial. The memorial park was designed to honor the lives of those who died on September 11. Bearing an individual name inscription, the 184 Memorial Units will represent each person who perished. The design's intent is to encourage future visitors to remember and reflect.

Since the groundbreaking, the Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office (PENREN) has aggressively launched the site preparation phase for the project. Currently, work is progressing for the removal and/or relocation of existing utilities. The work is necessary, so new construction may begin for the Pentagon Memorial in 2007. In early July Centex Lee LLC, the design-build contractor, performed additional test-pitting to verify the location of the underground utilities and prepare for mass excavation of the site. It is anticipated that 35,000 cubic yards of dirt will be removed.

While construction is progressing for the Pentagon Memorial grounds, the design team is refining other elements of the project. The team, alongside the Department of Defense, Department of Justice and U.S. Access Board are collaborating to enhance accessibility for the Memorial Park and Gateway. The testing and modification of the park's gravel surface is in process.

Simultaneously, research is underway to achieve appropriate lighting levels for the Pentagon Memorial Units and the overall park. The designers' efforts are focused on achieving a desired nighttime effect for lighting the Memorial Units and reflecting pools.

Currently, 95% drawings are underway and approval of the Memorial Unit prototype is a major part of this submission. The Memorial Units have been redesigned in two pieces. The top portion is metal, and supported by a concrete basin, which serves as the reflecting pool. The latest prototype forms have been sent to different factories for testing. One form will provide a sample for perfecting polishing techniques used to maintain the metal finish of the Memorial Units. The other prototype was sent to the manufacturer producing the epoxy polymer concrete. It is a terrazzo-like "fill" that will form the solid top surface of each Memorial Unit.

Additionally, the Design team and the Pentagon's horticulturalists are coordinating a list of recommended landscape trees and plant species. The collaboration among the PENREN project team and Washington Headquarters Services, Defense Facilities Directorate, Pentagon Force Protection Agency will ensure quality workmanship for the Pentagon Memorial. The Park will provide a lifetime of appreciation by visitors to this future national landmark.

